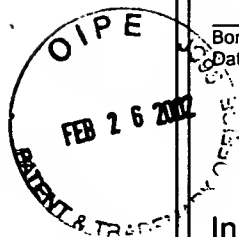


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on 25 JANUARY 2002.



Bonnie S. Sheridan
Date of Signature 25 JANUARY 2002

PATENT
5/ Prel. Amndt. A
E. Willis
5-10-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Cuomo et al.

Examiner: Unassigned

Serial No.: 09/998,080

Group Art Unit: 2812

Filed: 11/30/2001

Docket No.: 297/105/2

For: M^{III}N BASED MATERIALS AND METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING SAME

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT (AMENDMENT A)

Commissioner for Patents
BOX NON-FEE AMENDMENT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the subject U.S. Patent Application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add a new paragraph on page 1 between the section entitled "Description" and the section entitled "Technical Field". This new paragraph should read as follows:

Related Applications

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial Nos. 60/250,297, filed November 30, 2000; and 60/250,337, filed November 30, 2000; the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

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A1

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKINS & WILSON, P.A.

Date:

1/25/02

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